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SENATE BILL 6053

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser and Keiser

Read first time 02/18/09. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing personal hygiene and cleaning products  
2 to low-income people; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) The ability to maintain basic personal hygiene for oneself and  
6 one's family is a key to good health and improves access to gainful  
7 employment, housing, and other important social contacts.

8 (b) For school-age children and teenagers who lack resources, poor  
9 hygiene can adversely affect critical social development and success in  
10 school.

11 (c) Washington citizens who rely on the state's basic food program  
12 and similar benefit programs to meet their fundamental needs may not  
13 have access to basic cleaning products and personal care items because  
14 the purchase of those items is not authorized through those programs.

15 (2) The legislature intends to establish a pilot project, designed  
16 to determine whether some of the state's neediest citizens would  
17 benefit from a program to provide access to personal hygiene products  
18 and basic cleaning supplies.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The department of community, trade, and  
2 economic development shall conduct a pilot project to evaluate the  
3 costs and benefits of a personal hygiene and cleaning product program.  
4 The goal of the project is to evaluate the feasibility of providing  
5 personal hygiene and cleaning products to people in need using  
6 volunteer-based organizations.

7        (1) In conducting the pilot project, the department shall:

8            (a) Identify qualifying products necessary for personal health and  
9 cleanliness, such as soap, shampoo, antiperspirant, dental care items,  
10 and foot care products; household cleaning products and supplies;  
11 laundry detergents; feminine hygiene products; shaving supplies; and  
12 toilet tissue and other paper products;

13          (b) Adopt eligibility standards, similar to those used for the  
14 basic food program;

15          (c) Choose at least two communities, at least one on each side of  
16 the Cascade mountain range, in which to conduct the pilot project. In  
17 choosing the communities the department shall consider the presence of  
18 organizations capable of soliciting and coordinating volunteers,  
19 identifying and serving clients, and recruiting donations of personal  
20 hygiene and cleaning products; and

21          (d) Provide funding to the organizations participating in the pilot  
22 project. The funding may be used for volunteer coordination, volunteer  
23 outreach, and purchase and transport of personal hygiene and cleaning  
24 products.

25        (2) The evaluation of the pilot project shall include:

26            (a) Identification of the costs to establish local personal hygiene  
27 and cleaning product programs;

28            (b) The need for products and services by low-income persons and  
29 the value to families in financial distress;

30            (c) The cost to administer the program, including the costs of  
31 volunteer coordination and acquisition and distribution of products and  
32 supplies; and

33            (d) Opportunities and barriers to expanding the program.

34        (3) The department shall report to the legislature and the office  
35 of financial management by December 1, 2010, on the pilot project and  
36 the potential for expanding the program to other communities.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    The sum of thirty thousand dollars, or as  
2 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
3 ending June 30, 2010, and the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, or as  
4 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year  
5 ending June 30, 2011, from the general fund to the department of  
6 community, trade, and economic development for the purposes of this  
7 act.

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